

Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations

Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders Advocacy, Prevention & Treatment Services
New England National Alliance of Methadone Advocates

New Hampshire Alcohol & Other Drug Service Providers Association

New York AIDS Coalition
NJ Advocates—NJ Chapter of NAMA

Nicks Place
North Carolina Association of Alcoholic Residential Facilities

North Carolina Substance Abuse Providers Association

North Dakota Addiction Treatment Providers Coalition

Northern California Chapter of the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates

Northern Michigan Project Vox
Northpointe Council, Inc.

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention & Treatment

Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers

Oklahoma Faces and Voices of Recovery
Oklahoma Substance Abuse Services Alliance

Ophelia's Place
Oregon Prevention, Recovery, and Education Association

PAR—People Advocating Recovery
Parent-To-Parent, Inc.

Pennsylvania Recovery Organization—Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT)
Punto de Vida

The RASE Project Buprenorphine Coordinator Program

Recovery Center
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc.

Recovery Resource Center
Volunteers of America Alaska

Royal Oak (Michigan) Save Our Youth Task Force

Recovery Resources
Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence

Samaritan Village
Seaway Valley Prevention Council

The Second Road, Inc.
Society of Addiction Counselors of Colorado

South Carolina Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

South Dakota Association for Addiction Professionals

South Dakota Council of Substance Abuse Providers

Spirit Works Foundation Center for the Soul

Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia

Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska

Substance Abuse Recovery Alliance of Utah

Suicide Awareness Voice of Education
Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug, & Addiction Services

Townsend Recovery, LLC
Transformation Center

Turning Point Recovery Center
Upstate Cerebral Palsy (NY)

Utah Behavioral Healthcare Network
Vericare Management

Vermont Association of Drug & Alcohol Programs

Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Washington Association of Alcoholism & Addiction Programs

Western Massachusetts School Substance Abuse Counselors Association

West Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, Inc.

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA,
Alexandria, VA, February 27, 2008.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Mental Health America and our 320 affiliates

across the country, I am writing to express our strong support for House passage of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, H.R. 1424, at the earliest possible date. House passage of this historic legislation is a critical step toward enactment this year of a strong mental health parity law.

Mental health conditions are the leading cause of disability in the U.S. for individuals ages 15–44, and a leading cause of premature death, implicated in 90% of the more than 30,000 suicides annually in this country. While scientific advances have led to the development of a range of effective treatments, millions of Americans who need mental health care are routinely denied access to those treatments, with often tragic results.

Despite a compelling body of science documenting that such practices are anachronistic and costly to employee health and to the “bottom line,” employer-sponsored health plans routinely continue to set strict, arbitrary treatment limits and financial requirements on mental health coverage, while imposing no such limitations, or far less onerous limitations, on coverage for other illnesses. It is shocking, more than 40 years after the passage of civil rights laws and 15 years after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, that federal law still permits insurance discrimination on the basis of mental illness. Our polling has consistently shown that Americans abhor such discrimination and support the enactment of a strong mental health parity law. Congress can and must pass such legislation this year.

Please support improved access to needed mental health treatment. Please support H.R. 1424.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. SHERN,
President and CEO.

HONORING GEORGIA MILLER-McCORKLE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Georgia Miller-McCorkle, who immigrated to the United States in 1980 from Trinidad, West Indies, where as a child she always excelled in school, getting merit cards along with excellent report cards. As a child, she was asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Her answer was always, “I want to be a teacher.”

At first, Ms. McCorkle settled in this country, got married, and raised five children: Sherwin, Vonetta, Fredericka, Tristan, and Robmesh. During that time, she worked at jobs fulfilling the basic home needs and helping to pay the bills, but something was missing.

Subsequently, she attended Brooklyn College, receiving her bachelor of arts, BA, degree in special education and her master's degree in special education from Long Island University. She joined the Department of Education in 1989, where her teaching skills included student-centered instruction, educational technology, parental involvement in student learning, critical thinking, individual learning plans, student motivation strategies, and active and meaningful learning activities.

Georgia Miller-McCorkle has worked with students from kindergarten through 12th grades, teaching science, music, and art, and was dean of students for 6 years. Further, she

counseled mild to profoundly mentally challenged young adults, supervising their daily activities and developing long- and short-term goals at a group home for mentally challenged adults for 3 years.

She provides cognitive and motor development skills for babies with developmental delays from birth to 3 years old in the Early Intervention Program and has been doing so for almost 12 years.

This remarkable woman is certified in: LSCI, Life Space Crisis Intervention; TCI, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention; FBA, Functional Behavioral Assessment; CPR, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation; beginning sign language; and first aid.

Madam Speaker, it behooves us to recognize this woman who exhibits such passion for the teaching profession and still teaches the early childhood grades, K–2, enjoying her job to the fullest. She is indeed living out her dream.

MELISSA FUERST

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Melissa Fuerst of Blue Springs, Missouri. Melissa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Melissa has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Melissa has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Melissa Fuerst for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING DONNA EASTMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Eastman for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the citizens of Callender, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Donna, a life-long resident of Callender, has served as the city clerk. As city clerk of a small town, Donna performs many diverse tasks for the community. She handles the utilities, budget, public records, city water, sewer, garbage and electric fees. Donna also files information for the mayor and city council and serves as a liaison between city residents and their elected officials. She has a strong understanding of the needs and desires of the community. With her experience and knowledge of the town she has become the town's unofficial ambassador.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending